Place name from Grenele, town in France.

"Grinnell (New Bedford-Providence family). Since the early settlement of Newport and Portsmouth, this commonwealth, shortly after 1638, the Grinnells have been indentified with Rhode Island and Massachusetts history, the earlier generations living largely in the towns of Newport county; and for the past hundred or more years, branches of this southern Rhode Island family have been representative of the best citizenship in the old Massachusetts town of New Bedford and at Providence." (R.I.Genealogy and Biography V 1 p 801)

"Matthew Grennell of Huguenot ancestry, but a native of England, was made freeman at Plymouth in 1628. His name is in a long list of inhabitants of Newport admitted after May 20, 1630. He died before 1643, in which year his widow Rose married Anthony Paine. She married (third) James Weeden. She died 1673, Newport, R.I. Grinnell's children were Matthew, Thomas, Daniel, and a daughter. "(Austin's Genealogy cal Dictionary of R.I. pp 308-311)

"Daniel Grinnell, son of Matthew, born about 1636, married Mary Wodell, born in November, 1640, daughter of William and Mary Wodell, and they lived in Portsmouth and Little Compton, R.I. Mr. Grinnell bought land in 1656 and was made a freeman in 1657. He was for several years juryman and served as constable. He was of Little Compton as early as 1687. His children were: Daniel, Jonathan(Born in 1670) and Richard(born in 1675)

"Daniel Grenel, born in 1665, died in 1740; he married Lydia Peabody born in 1667 and died in 1748, a daughter of William and Elizabeth Alden Peabody, the latter named having been a daughter of John and Priscilla Mullins Alden. Daniel was son of Daniel Grennell, son of Matthew, born in 1636, m Mary Wodell, who was born in 1640. Matthew Grenell a native of England, who was made freeman at Plymouth, Mass. in 1628." (Genealogical and family History p 1028)

"Peabody Grinnell, son of Daniel and Lydia Grinnell, was born 1684 in Little Compton, R.I. and died in Saybrook, Conn.On April 4, 1718 he was married to Ruth Nettleton in Saybrook, Conn. She died October 9, 1732, in Saybrook. Their children were Daniel, Ruth, Lydia, Jasper, Barbour, and Hannah." (The Grinnell Family and Some of its Connections, compiled by Louise Barnard Horton)

"Jasper Grinnell, the fourth child of Paybody and Ruth Nettleton Grinnell was born January 29, 1727, at Saybrook, Conn. He was married May 31, 1749, at Saybrook to Sarah Hill who was born at Guilford, Conn. March 12, 1726/7, and died 1780 at Saybrook."(Gonn. Hist. Soc.) Children: Michael, born March 20, 1752, David, born 1763, Seth born 1767, Abel born 1768.